WASHINGTON, D.C.
August 1955

1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES

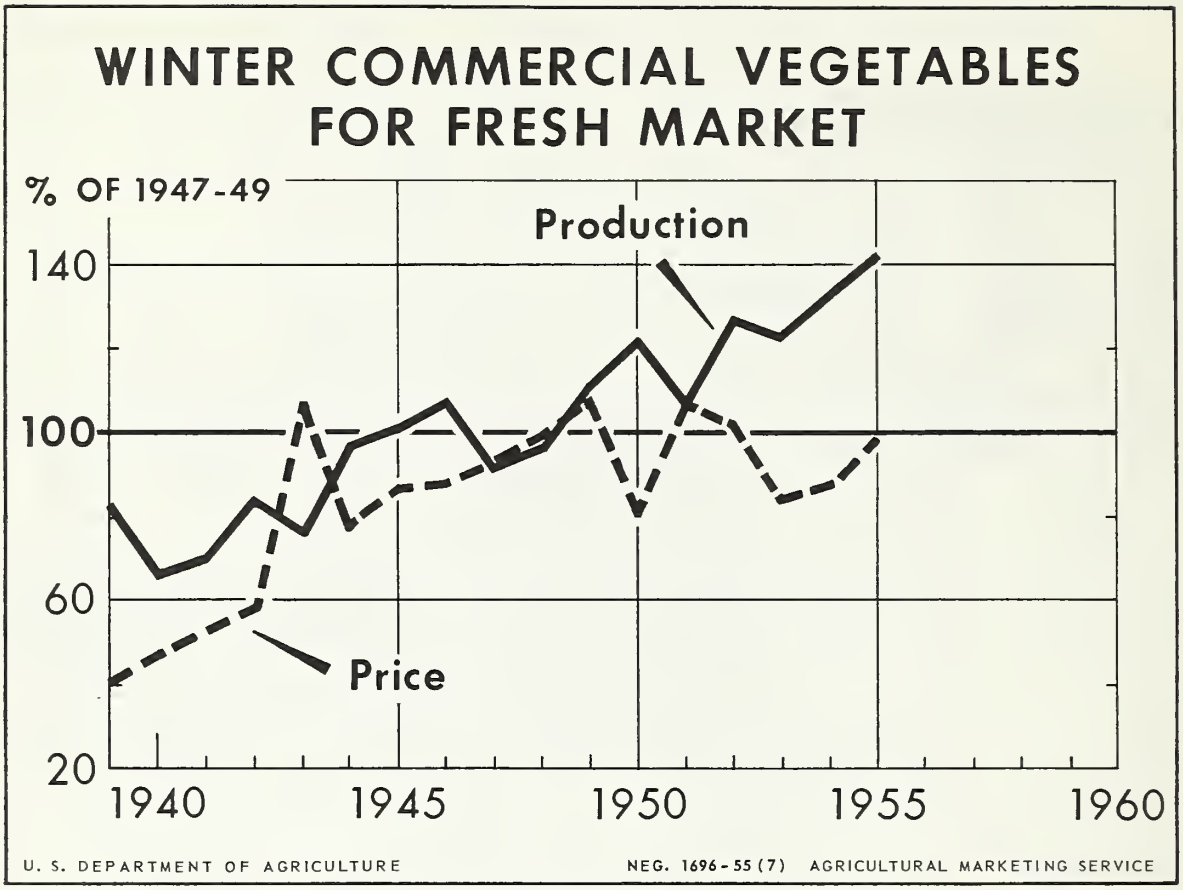
Winter Vegetables

Winter Potatoes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

AMS-67

☆GPO O - 55 - AGRI 360430 - 25



The trend in production of commercial fresh vegetables during the winter season has been generally upward since 1939. In 1955, production of value reached a record high -- 41.5 percent above the 1947-49 average. Prices for winter vegetables also moved upward from 1939 through 1949 but since then have shown no definite trend. Prices during the 1955 winter season were well above the relatively low levels of the two preceding years but were 1.3 percent below the 1947-49 average. Production during the winter season varies considerably from year to year, principally in response to the price levels during the preceding year and to weather conditions in the current year. There is a general tendency for production and prices to move in opposite directions. However, in many years the pattern of movement to market outweighs the effect on prices of total supplies available for the entire winter season. Thus, a small production of a vegetable crop moving to market within a short period often will result in temporary surplus supplies and low prices, while a larger production moving to market over a longer period will result in more balanced supplies and higher prices. Weather is a relatively more important factor during the winter than in other seasons because production is concentrated in a few southern and western states. Thus, abnormal weather in even a fairly small area has considerable effect upon the total production and consequently upon prices.

F O R E W O R D

The acreage-marketing guides program for vegetables, including potatoes and sweetpotatoes, is directed toward balancing the supply of each vegetable with the demand for it. The program is an attempt by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to provide the best possible estimates of the acreage of particular vegetables required, with average yields, to supply the quantity of these vegetables deemed necessary to meet the market need anticipated for the coming season.

The guide reports are prepared by specialists who follow the markets for the various commodities closely throughout the year and develop a record of happenings in the various markets, with explanations for unusual occurrences. On the basis of the latest and best available information, specific recommendations are developed for each commodity and a brief report is prepared explaining the reasons for each recommendation. Recognition is given to trends, both in recent years and for long time periods. Also, any abnormalities of preceding seasons are considered carefully. However, the recommendations are based upon the assumption that average conditions will prevail in the following season. The recommendation for each commodity is presented in terms of a percentage change from the acreage and production for preceding years, so as to permit each individual grower to apply this percentage-change recommendation to his individual operations. The recommendations are reviewed before publication by representatives of various agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

The grower is provided not only with the specialists' recommendation, but also with the latest possible information upon which the recommendation is based. The information is presented to the grower in sufficient time for him to consider the facts as he develops his plans for the forthcoming season. The fundamental concept behind the guide program is that, given the best information possible, the grower will make intelligent decisions for his and the industry's best interest. Compliance with the guides on the part of growers is voluntary. When growers have kept acreage within the levels recommended by the Department, few marketing difficulties have been encountered.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES

Winter Vegetables and Winter Potatoes

I. SUMMARY OF ADJUSTMENTS

Winter Vegetables: The aggregate acreage guide for 18 winter vegetables in 1956 is an acreage about equal to that in 1955 but 1 percent less than in 1954. With average yields, this acreage will result in a 1956 production 2 percent less than in 1955 and 3 percent less than in 1954.

The total production of these 18 winter vegetables for fresh market in 1955 was 0.6 percent less than in 1954 on an acreage 1.2 percent less than in 1954. In the Winter Acreage-Marketing Guides for 1955 the Department recommended an acreage for 17 of these vegetables (eggplant excluded) 4 percent less, and a production 6 percent less than in 1954. Prices in 1955 generally were well above the relatively low levels of the two previous years. In 1955, prices averaged 98.7 percent of the 1947-49 average prices for winter vegetables. In 1954 and 1953 prices averaged 87.4 and 82.8 percent, respectively, of the 1947-49 average.

During the 1955 season there were frequent periods of cold weather in almost all producing areas. This resulted in some damage to the more tender crops, especially sweet corn where 35 percent of the planted acreage was damaged and not harvested, but the principal effect was to delay harvest schedules. However, these delayed harvests in general did not cause any serious overlaps in the marketing of vegetables. For three of the more important vegetables, celery, lettuce, and tomatoes, production reached record levels. Despite the large production, prices for all three were above 1954 levels, reflecting very orderly movements to market. The only commodities that encountered serious marketing difficulties during a major portion of the season were beets, carrots, escarole and shallots. On occasion low prices were experienced for other vegetables, due in part to large production and bunching of harvest, but these occasions were relatively infrequent and of brief duration.

Winter vegetables are expected to encounter continued strong competition from processed vegetables. In general supplies of canned and frozen vegetables during 1955 were slightly less than in 1954 but still were ample. In 1956 it appears, on the basis of current stocks in processors' and distributors' hands and current production estimates for vegetables for processing, that processed supplies will be about as large as in the winter months (January, February, and March) of 1955.

Winter Potatoes: The acreage guide for winter potatoes is an acreage in Florida 25 percent less than in 1955 and an acreage in Texas equal to 1955. With average yields this acreage will result in a production 23 percent less than in 1955 and 26 percent less than in 1954.

Winter potato prices in 1955 were moderately higher than in 1954 even though 1955 production was 7 percent above 1955 levels. Smaller storage stocks in late crop producing states during the winter of 1955 contributed to the higher prices. On the basis of current preliminary indications the 1955 late crop will be 11 percent above 1954 and 2 percent above the 1944-53 average. If this crop is realized storage stocks during the winter of 1956 probably will be very large.

The recommended adjustments for winter vegetables and potatoes necessarily assume normal weather conditions and usual planting schedules so as to result in normal marketing patterns by commodities. The recommendations also assume average yields attained in recent years, although consideration has been given to trends in yields and the range in annual variations about yield trends. Distorted marketing patterns, arising principally from weather conditions, and abnormal yields will result in sharp changes in prices. Usually these situations exist only for short time periods if normal production patterns are followed based upon acreage designed to keep supplies in line with demand. The anticipated production from the guide acreages will provide adequate supplies for all normal outlets under prospective demand conditions.

Specific acreage guide recommendations for 1956 winter vegetables are as follows:

Commodity	Percentage Change in 1956 Acreage for Harvest Compared with 1955
	(percent)
Lima Beans	No change
Snap Beans	Minus 5
Beets	Minus 20
Broccoli	Plus 10
Cabbage	No change
Carrots	Minus 5
Cauliflower	No change
Celery	Plus 5
Sweet Corn	Plus 50
Cucumbers	No change
Eggplant	No change
Escarole	Minus 5
Kale	Minus 5
Lettuce	No change
Peppers, Green	Minus 5
Shallots	Minus 20
Spinach	No change
Tomatoes	Plus 5

II. DEMAND FOR WINTER VEGETABLES IN 1956

The demand for 1956 winter vegetables as a group is expected to be at least as high as in 1955. If production is as large as in 1955, prices next winter should average at least equal to the levels during the winter of 1955. During the 1955 winter season economic activity was at a higher level than in 1954 and vegetable prices averaged moderately higher than in 1954 for a production of vegetables practically the same as in 1954.

Last winter economic activity expanded rapidly due largely to increased production and sales of new automobiles and to the sharp expansion in residential construction activity. Consumer incomes after taxes rose about 3 percent from the winter of 1953-54 to the winter of 1954-55 while consumer spending increased 4 percent. Reduced personal savings and increased use of credit financed part of the increase in consumer buying. This strength in the consumer market contributed most to the substantial pickup in output of automobiles, residential construction, steel production and output of other related industries. Government demand for goods and services declined as spending for defense programs was reduced.

Economic activity rose to record levels in the second quarter of 1955 and is likely to be maintained in coming months at or above recent high rates. Employment and incomes are moderately above a year earlier and current prospects indicate they will hold at high levels. Planned increases in business investment and prospects for a slight rise in combined spending by Federal, State and local governments together with record consumer incomes point to some further increase in economic activity and a high level of demand for food and other farm products. Sales by retail food stores last winter were up 5 percent from the winter of 1953-54 and probably will rise in coming months as consumer income increases. The foreign market for farm products in the winter of 1955-56 probably will hold near levels of a year earlier. Special government programs to increase exports of surplus farm products, increased economic activity in foreign countries, and rebuilt gold and dollar resources are favorable factors for the export of U. S. farm products.

Even though auto output has declined seasonally in the past 2 months from the record rate in the first few months of 1955 and residential construction has leveled off, production, employment, and consumer incomes are expected to continue at a high level. With record rates of economic activity and generally optimistic prospects for the future, businessmen are programming substantial increases in plant and equipment expenditures for the next several months. Construction activity in total probably will be maintained although residential building will be slightly below the high seasonally adjusted rates in the winter of 1954-55. With rising sales of consumer and investment goods, business inventories stabilized in the winter of 1954-55 and substantial increased inventories evident in the second quarter of 1955 will help to maintain production and employment in coming months.

Budget estimates indicate little change in outlays for national security programs However, expenditures by State and local governments are expected to at least continue the uptrend of recent years. Substantial backlogs of public works, praticularly for schools and highways, are expected to lead to further increases in expenditures by State and local governments.

III. PRODUCTION AND MARKETING MATERIALS AND FACILITIES

Practically all farm equipment and operating supplies required for the production, processing and packaging of 1956 winter season vegetables are expected to be in ample supply. With only a very few exceptions growers and processors should be able to readily obtain any needed equipment and supplies.

Farm Machinery and Supplies. Supplies of farm machinery and equipment generally are expected to be adequate for production of the 1956 winter vegetable crop. Manufacturers have increased production rates over a year ago to keep pace with the demand for equipment, and new models have many improvements as a result of technological advances. All items are in fairly free supply except crawler tractors; several models require ordering in advance of need. In view of the present relatively tight aluminum situation, it may be advisable for those producers considering installation of portable aluminum irrigation systems to place their orders early. It is expected that dealer inventories of other production supplies, such as fuel, trucks, implement and truck tires, will be kept at their present adequate levels.

Fertilizer. The 1955-56 supply of each primary nutrient is expected to exceed the 1954-55 supply. No shortage of any nutrient is expected during the coming season. Because of the large rush of orders which usually develops each year from March 1 to May 15, local delays in delivery might occur during this period.

Pesticides. Supplies of insecticides, fungicides, and weed killers generally will be ample to meet 1956 needs for protection of winter vegetable crops. However, unusually severe infestations might result in temporary or local shortages of particular chemicals. Users of pesticides can protect themselves and contribute to the efficient distribution of available stocks by placing orders as early as possible for at least their minimum needs.

The production of synthetic organic insecticides such as DDT, methoxychlor, aldrin and parathion, is in reasonable balance with demand. Although rotenone continues to be reported as rather tight, imports are now sufficiently high to assure fairly good supplies.

The demand for soil fumigants and for organic fungicides continues to grow, but production capacity is large enough to provide adequate supplies if recommended alternate chemicals are accepted in case of shortages. Weed killer chemicals also are growing demand with production meeting requirements in most cases.

Containers. The supply of containers for packaging and marketing the 1956 winter vegetable crop should be ample to meet all demands. The supply of materials used in the production of all types of shipping containers, unit consumer packages, and protective wraps is plentiful. Facilities for manufacturing containers are adequate to meet demands if reasonable foresight is exercised in placing orders. No shortage is anticipated for any type of container for fresh vegetables.

Manpower. The over-all supply of farm manpower in 1956 is expected to continue adequate to meet most needs. Employers, especially those using large numbers of seasonal workers, should plan early for timely recruitment of needed labor. Such recruitment is more effective when plans are made and carried out in close cooperation with local Employment Service offices. The supply of experienced year-round workers is expected to continue tight. Some of these workers in addition to those taking non-farm jobs will enter the Armed Forces and this loss will necessitate adjustments in the operation of some farms. Continuing non-farm employment opportunities make it necessary for farm employers to give attention to adequate housing, continuity of employment and other factors which make it possible to attract and hold qualified workers in the farm work force.

Transportation: Ample facilities should be available for transporting the production from the recommended acreage of 1956 winter season fresh vegetables. Any shortages which may occur should be of a temporary nature.

The rail transportation outlook for the 1956 winter season is similar to the situation which existed during the 1955 season. The supply of refrigerator cars suitable for handling fresh fruits and vegetables has remained about stationary during the past year; 2,974 new cars were installed and 2,967 retired. A few temporary shortages were experienced during the past season largely due to unusually heavy loadings for short periods. If weather conditions permit normal patterns of production and loading in 1956 the car supply should be ample. The Association of American Railroads and the car lines continue to watch the distribution of refrigerator cars closely, and as far as possible maintain adequate supplies in the various shipping areas.

Manufacture of trucks, trailers, and tires continues at a normal rate, and supplies are expected to be adequate. Some common carrier truck lines have experienced labor difficulties during recent months. It is not anticipated that trucks handling the majority of fresh fruits and vegetables will be confronted with this labor trouble, at least during the next few months.

IV. SURPLUS REMOVAL OPERATIONS:

It is the policy of the Department to limit surplus removal assistance for potatoes and other vegetables to those areas where there has been substantial compliance with the acreage-marketing guides announced by the Department. Compliance with the guides program does not commit the Department to provide assistant for any commodity or area.

By providing growers with the necessary information, the Department expects that acreage can be adjusted so as to bring supplies in balance with demand and avoid marketing difficulties. Before planting time, growers should take precautionary measures to assure themselves of available marketing outlets for their production.

V. FOREIGN WINTER VEGETABLE PROSPECTS

Imports. During the 1954-55 winter season imports of the principal winter vegetables continued their downward trend in volume. Total imports of the more important vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, watermelons and eggplant) during the November 1954-April 1955 period amounted to 119 million pounds. This compares with 202 million pounds imported during the corresponding period of 1953-54.

Imports of tomatoes, the most important winter vegetable, amounted to 77 million pounds. This was a decline of 49.2 percent from the previous season. The bulk of the green peppers originate in Mexico. Green pepper imports amounted to 5 million pounds, a decline of 66.2 percent from the previous season. Cucumber imports totaled 31 million pounds, an increase of 21.4 percent.

It is expected that supplies of winter vegetables from Mexico during the 1955-56 season will be smaller than in 1954-55. The past season was reported to be one of the most unprofitable seasons in recent years. The production of winter vegetables has shown a downward trend in Cuba for several years. However, preliminary information indicates a halting or reversal of this trend in 1956. The acreage of tomatoes is expected to be about 10 percent above 1955 while acreages of cucumbers and green peppers will be increased 5 to 10 percent.

The following table shows the volume of specified vegetables imported by months from Mexico and Cuba during the period November 1954 through April 1955 compared to the total for the previous season:

WINTER VEGETABLES: Imports into the United States for Consumption, by Country of Origin, by Months for 1954-55

Commodity and Country of Origin	1954		1955				Total Six Months	
	November	December	January	February	March	April	1954-55	1953-54
	(1,000 lbs.)		(1,000 lbs.)				(1,000 lbs.)	
Peppers								
Cuba	-	-	27	412	156	-	595	376
Mexico	89	500	1,527	1,049	366	422	3,953	13,083
Eggplant								
Cuba	-	-	43	400	998	180	1,621	1,274
Mexico	-	2	-	-	28	4	34	97
Tomatoes								
Cuba	5	276	2,100	4,471	2,568	536	9,956	14,354
Mexico	915	7,502	17,649	15,848	12,177	12,895	66,986	137,133
Cucumbers								
Cuba	-	1,688	9,801	12,358	6,166	340	30,353	24,949
Mexico	-	38	98	28	120	271	555	509
Watermelons								
Cuba	-	119	482	206	282	493	1,582	3,304
Mexico	-	-	-	9	132	2,881	3,022	6,520

Source: Compiled from the records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports. United States exports of winter vegetables, principally to Canada continued their upward trend. Total exports from the U. S. during the November 1954-April 1955 period were 255 million pounds. In the previous season exports totaled 229 million pounds. With prospects of smaller crops both in Mexico and Cuba, a further increase is expected during the 1955-56 season. The following table shows the volume of exports with comparisons:

WINTER VEGETABLES: Exports from the United States
November 1954 through April 1955

Commodity	To Canada	To Other	Total Six Months 1/ 1954-55	Total Six Months 1/ 1953-54
	1,000 lbs.			
Beans, fresh	6,163	118	6,281	5,993
Cabbage	40,194	881	41,075	38,389
Carrots	42,397	1,150	43,547	38,485
Peas, green	194	74	268	442
Celery	51,247	549	51,796	48,615
Lettuce	70,494	2,111	72,605	72,755
Peppers	2,885	78	2,963	2,424
Tomatoes	30,271	1,658	31,929	17,139
Spinach	4,681	40	4,721	4,692

1/ November-April

VI. CANNED AND FROZEN VEGETABLES

Supplies of canned and frozen vegetables generally were ample to heavy during the 1955 winter season. However, the supply positions and disappearance rates of the various commodities showed considerable variation. Stocks of lima beans, snap beans and sweet corn were very large. However, disappearance of all three also was very large - well above that in 1954. Green peas and spinach stocks were relatively light and the movement was below the two previous years. Tomato stocks were much below the very heavy positions of 1953 and 1954 but were still ample. Beet and carrot supplies and movement were about normal. Frozen lima beans, snap beans and corn were heavy but moved at record rates. Frozen spinach and green peas were in relatively light supply and the movement was down accordingly.

Preliminary acreage and production figures for vegetables for processing in 1955 indicate that packs slightly larger than in 1954 are probably for green peas, beets, and spinach and tomatoes. However, these increased packs will be largely offset by smaller carryovers of 1954 stocks. Smaller packs are likely for lima beans, snap beans and sweet corn. Carryovers of these items were heavy and ample supplies for 1956 are expected. In total, supplies of canned and frozen vegetables in 1956 are not expected to be significantly different from the ample supplies available in 1955.

The following table shows the January 1 stock positions of canned and frozen vegetables and the apparent disappearance during the January-March period for the last three years:

SUPPLY AND MOVEMENT OF CANNED AND FROZEN VEGETABLES
WINTER SEASON 1953-54-55

Commodity	Total Supply January 1			Disappearance-January 1-March 31		
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
	- 1,000 cases basis 24/2's -			- 1,000 cases basis 24/2's -		
Canned Vegetables 1/						
Lima Beans	2/ 2,103	2/ 2,377	2/ 3,157	2/ 601	2/ 701	3/ 849
Snap Beans	9,757	12,049	18,181	5,160	5,048	6,253
Beets	5,567	6,536	5,607	2/ 1,558	2/ 1,942	3/ 1,462
Carrots	1,979	2,438	2,281	2/ 432	2/ 536	3/ 432
Sweet Corn	21,307	23,988	25,965	8,167	8,334	8,609
Green Peas	17,444	18,678	15,534	7,361	7,564	7,027
Spinach	3,900	3,350	1,514	4/ 1,800	4/ 1,700	4/ 529
Tomatoes 2/	19,058	2/ 17,900	14,236	4,892	5,845	5,322
Frozen Vegetables	-Thousand Pounds-			-Thousand Pounds-		
Lima Beans	79,021	93,751	106,871	23,254	28,904	32,635
Snap Beans	51,784	69,415	79,507	18,014	27,105	30,640
Sweet Corn	40,694	78,041	91,396	19,264	23,230	27,254
Green Peas	141,091	155,945	122,573	50,865	64,476	59,573
Spinach	43,395	44,779	23,916	4/ 7,265	4/11,228	4/ 9,715

1/ Total supply includes canners' and distributors' stocks.
2/ Interpolation.
3/ Estimate.
4/ January 1 to March 1.

Sources: National Canners Association, National Association of Frozen Food Packers, Census Bureau, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, and AMS, USDA.

Winter Vegetables: 1956 Acreage Guides with Comparisons

	Acreage 1/					Percent Acreage Guide is of:			
	1956 Guide	1955 Prel.	1954	1949-53 Average	1944-53 Average	1955 Prel.	1954	1949-53 Average	1944-53 Average
	Acres					Percent			
Beans, Lima	600	600	400	780	1,250	100	150	77	48
Beans, Snap	23,300	24,500	23,600	29,620	31,430	95	99	79	74
Beets	4,400	5,500	6,000	5,540	6,620	80	73	79	66
Broccoli	7,500	6,800	8,050	8,850	5,445	110	93	85	138
Cabbage	41,300	41,300	45,800	47,320	52,870	100	90	87	78
Carrots	36,100	38,000	35,900	42,070	41,645	95	101	86	87
Cauliflower	5,800	5,810	5,100	3,580	3,590	100	114	162	162
Celery	9,600	9,160	9,990	9,824	9,937	105	96	98	97
Sweet Corn	8,800	5,900	9,900	4,040	2/	149	89	218	-
Cucumbers	2,500	2,500	2,200	1,660	3/ 1,261	100	114	151	-
Eggplant	800	800	800	730	778	100	100	110	103
Escarole	4,300	4,500	4,500	4,020	3,350	96	96	107	128
Kale	2,800	3,000	3,000	2,920	2,830	93	93	96	99
Lettuce	63,500	63,500	61,500	60,040	50,950	100	103	106	125
Peppers, Green	4,600	4,800	4,500	3,560	3,500	96	102	129	131
Shallots	3,100	3,900	2,800	3,100	2,890	79	111	100	107
Spinach	21,100	21,100	19,900	25,036	31,883	100	106	84	66
Tomatoes	17,400	16,600	17,400	13,660	13,410	105	100	127	130
Total	257,500	258,270	261,340	266,350	4/262,378	100	99	97	4/ 98

1/ Acreage available for harvest.
2/ Not available.
3/ 1954-53 Average.
4/ Cucumbers and Sweet Corn not included.

Winter Vegetables: 1956 Probable Production with Comparisons

Commodity	Production 2/					Probable Production from Acreage Guide as % of			
	1956 Guide 1/	1955 Prel.	1954	1949-53 Average	1944-53 Average	1955 Prel.	1954	1949-53 Average	1944-53 Average
	Tons					Percent			
Beans, Lima	704	624	480	1,152	1,664	113	147	61	42
Beans, Snap	41,940	45,930	42,480	43,995	43,935	91	99	95	95
Beets	15,548	19,292	21,060	18,902	24,778	81	74	82	63
Broccoli	17,640	17,052	18,228	18,795	11,592	103	97	94	152
Cabbage	292,952	283,400	327,200	345,920	357,790	103	90	85	82
Carrots	216,750	222,500	226,250	258,750	256,350	97	96	84	85
Cauliflower	29,193	28,694	23,920	17,871	18,093	102	122	163	161
Celery	216,570	226,860	226,620	201,600	180,150	95	96	107	120
Sweet Corn	34,750	25,075	40,850	12,950	3/	139	85	268	-
Cucumbers	8,400	8,400	7,656	6,600 4/	4,512	100	110	127	-
Eggplant	5,412	4,620	5,940	4,983	4,802	117	91	109	113
Escarole	27,575	29,525	30,650	24,700	20,525	93	90	112	134
Kale	9,072	8,910	9,450	10,548	9,756	102	96	86	93
Lettuce	406,350	406,350	396,375	355,565	320,250	100	103	114	127
Peppers, Green	23,688	24,900	21,650	18,638	16,988	95	109	127	139
Shallots	4,200	7,400	3,800	4,250	4,100	57	111	99	102
Spinach	36,960	35,060	34,350	42,030	52,040	105	108	88	71
Tomatoes	105,126	129,770	96,831	69,562	57,505	81	109	151	183
Total	1,492,830	1,524,362	1,533,790	1,456,811 5/	1,380,318	98	97	102	5/ 108

1/ Computed: Acreage guide for 1955 winter vegetables times average yield.
2/ Includes some quantities not marketed (See individual statement for particulars).
3/ Not available.
4/ 1945-53 average.
5/ Sweet corn and cucumbers not included.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Lima Beans

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage Planted	Acreage For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
		(acres)	(bu.)	(1,000 bu.)	($ per bu.)	($ 1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1955)		600	1/ 74	44		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	650	600	65	39	4.00	156
1954	450	400	75	30	4.25	128
1949-53 Average	940	780	90	2/ 72	3.71	261
1944-53 "	-	1,250	84	2/104	3.98	398

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 28,000 bushels in 1946, 25,000 bushels in 1948, and 3,000 bushels in 1950.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of lima beans was increased over the 1954 acreage, contrary to the downward trend of the past 15 years. The acreage for harvest was 200 acres or 50 percent more than in 1954 but 23 percent less than the 1949-53 average and slightly less than half of the 1944-53 average. Yields were lower than in 1954 and the lowest since 1943 due to weather conditions characterized by low temperatures in each month from December to March, including light scattered frost which affected the crop growth and development. Production was 30 percent more than in 1954, 11 percent more than in 1953 but almost half the 1949-53 average and almost one-third the 1944-53 average. Except for 1953 and 1954 the production was the lowest since 1935. Prices were lower than in 1954 but higher than the 1949-53 average. Competition from canned and frozen limas was heavier than in 1954 with frozen supplies being 10 to 13 million pounds larger in corresponding months from January through March. The acreage of lima beans for processing in 1955 is indicated to be 9 percent less than in 1954. Supplies from this acreage will compete with 1956 winter production for fresh market.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 13 percent more than in 1955, 47 percent more than in 1954 but 39 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Snap Beans

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage: Planted	Acreage: For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(acres)		(bushels)	(1,000 bu.)	($ per bu.)	($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probably Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)		23,300	1/ 120	2,796		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	26,700	24,500	125	3,062	2.75	8,420
1954	24,300	23,600	120	2,832	2.75	7,788
1949-53 Average	32,060	29,620	100	2/2,933	2.88	8,223
1944-53 "	-	31,430	94	2/2,929	2.82	7,779

1/ 1953-55 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 100,000 bushels in 1945, 603,000 bushels in 1946, 34,000 bushels in 1947, 373,000 bushels in 1948, and 320,000 bushels in 1951.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest of snap beans was 4 percent more than in 1954 but 17 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 22 percent less than the 1944-53 average acreage. The acreage lost from plantings was 2,200 acres due largely to adverse weather conditions that plagued the crop throughout the season. The 1955 yield was more than in 1954 and the highest on record. Production was 8 percent more than in 1954, 4 percent more than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Prices were equal to those obtained in 1954 but below the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. The season was characterized by frequent periods of low temperatures from late December to March, with more than usual replantings, with heavy shipments toward the end of the winter marketing season and with wide ranges in prices. Shipments were lighter than in comparable time periods of 1954 until early March and in each week in March shipments exceeded those of comparable weeks in 1954 by an average of more than 100 carlot equivalents a week. Prices were higher than in 1954 early in the season when shipments were lighter and lower than in 1954 when shipments were heavy. Competition from canned and frozen green and wax beans was much greater in 1955 than in 1954. Current estimates of the acreage for processing in 1955 indicates an acreage 11 percent less than the record high acreage of 1954.

1956 Guides: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yields will result in a production 9 percent less than in 1955, 1 percent less than in 1954 and 5 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Beets

(State: Texas)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bushels)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probably Production:						
1956 (acreage 20 percent less than in 1955)		4,400	1/ 136	598		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	5,500	5,500	135	2/ 742	.75	412
1954	6,500	6,000	135	2/ 810	.90	495
1949-53 Average	5,940	5,540	132	2/ 727	.79	495
1944-53 "	-	6,620	142	2/ 953	.65	531

1/ 1951-55 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 146,000 bushels in 1946, 200,000 bushels in 1950, 175,000 bushels in 1953, 260,000 bushels in 1954, 192,000 bushels in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 harvested acreage was moderately smaller than in 1954. This reduction in acreage was due in part to unfavorable weather during the planting season and probably also to the rather unsatisfactory marketing situation for beets that prevailed for most growers through the winter of 1954. The 1955 harvested acreage was 9 percent less than in 1954 and about equal to the 1949-53 average. Weather conditions were generally favorable during the growing season except for freezing temperatures on February 12 which caused some leaf damage. The 1955 average yield was equal to that in 1954 and slightly above the 1949-53 average. During 1955, as in 1954 some fields were only partially harvested due to the prevailing low prices. The 1955 production was 8 percent less than in 1954, 2 percent above the 1949-53 average and 22 percent below the 1944-53 average. The total quantity of the 1955 crop that was marketed was 550,000 bushels, equal to the quantity marketed in 1954. However, season average prices were considerably lower in 1955. Prices were low as the marketing season began in early December and remained low through February. There was a short period of moderate prices during the first half of March reflecting the cool temperatures during February. Then prices declined to low levels where they remained until the season ended in late April. Canned beets, which continue to offer strong competition to the fresh product, were in ample supply during the 1955 winter season. About the same canned beet supply situation is likely to prevail in 1956 as in 1955.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 20 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 19 percent less than in 1955, 18 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 37 percent less than the 1944-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Broccoli
(States: Arizona, South Carolina and Texas)

Year	Acreage Planted; For Harvest (acres)		Yield Per Acre (crates)	Production (1,000 crates)	Price ($ per crate)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 10 percent more than in 1955)		7,500	1/ 112	840		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	6,800	6,800	119	812	4.07	3,308
1954	8,100	8,050	108	868	3.30	2,862
1949-53 Average	8,960	8,850	100	895	4.05	3,569
2/1944-53 "	-	5,445	102	552	3.93	2,179

1/ 1952-55 average
2/ Arizona only prior to 1949.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 16 percent less than in 1954, and 23 percent less than the 1949-53 average, but 25 percent more than the 1944-53 average. The smaller acreage in 1955 was due largely to a much smaller acreage in Texas. Yields averaged higher than in 1954 and the 1949-53 average with unusually high yields realized in Texas and Arizona. South Carolina yields were low due to hot, dry growing season last fall. Production was 6 percent less than in 1954, and 9 percent less than the 1949-53 average but 47 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Prices averaged more than in 1954 but about equal to the 1949-53 average. Some marketings from California fall crop (1954) overlaped marketings early in the winter season and shipments from California 1955 spring crop occured during the winter season. Shipments were retarded throughout most of the season due to cold weather. Frozen supplies were larger than usual but less than during the 1954 season. Packers of frozen broccoli were fairly active in buying supplies from the winter crop. It appears likely that in 1956 frozen supplies will be in better balance than in the past two years and packer requirements from the winter crop may be slightly greater.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 10 percent more than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yields will result in a production 3 percent more than in 1955, but 3 percent less than in 1954 and 6 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Cabbage

(States: Arizona, California, Florida and Texas)

Year	Acreage Planted (acres)	Acreage For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (tons)	Production (tons)	Price ($ per ton)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1954)		41,300	1/ 7.09	292,952		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	41,300	41,300	6.9	283,400	44.93	12,732
1954	46,600	45,800	7.14	2/ 327,200	22.29	5,977
1949-53 Avg.	50,760	47,320	7.42	2/ 345,920	41.91	11,906
1944-53 "	-	52,870	6.88	2/ 357,790	36.81	11,131

1/ 1951-55 average yield by States.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 11,500 tons in 1944, 54,400 tons in 1945, 2,500 tons in 1946, 20,400 tons in 1947, 23,800 tons in 1948, 53,500 tons in 1949, 97,600 tons in 1950, 50,700 tons in 1951, 13,700 tons in 1952, 113,500 tons in 1953 and 59,000 tons in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of cabbage for harvest was 10 percent less than in 1954, 13 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 22 percent less than the 1944-53 average. The crop was later than usual due to delays in planting because of heavy fall rains and the retarding effects of cold weather in the period from late December to mid-March. Yields averaged less than in 1954 and less than the 1949-53 average but about equal to the 1944-53 average. Production was 13 percent less than in 1954 when 59,000 tons were not marketed due to market demand and low prices. The production was 18 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 21 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Prices were about twice those obtained in 1954 but only moderately higher than the 1949-53 average. The price situation for the winter crop was aided materially by a delayed marketing season for early spring cabbage, which also was smaller than in 1954. In addition, production of late fall cabbage in 1954 was 29 percent smaller than the 1949-53 average. Current indications point to a normal late fall crop in 1955. The quality of the 1955 crop was better than usual, with the Texas crop reported as of excellent quality throughout most of the season. Florida experienced some quality problems and sizes were small early in the season but this apparently was overcome with good rains later in the season.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields by States will result in a production 3 percent more than in 1955, but 10 percent less than in 1954 and 15 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Carrots

(States: Arizona, California, and Texas)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bu.)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)		36,100	1/ 240	8,670		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	38,500	38,000	234	8,900	1.35	11,076
1954 "	36,900	35,900	252	2/ 9,050	1.69	14,991
1949-53 Average	42,310	42,070	252	2/ 10,350	1.45	14,574
1944-53 "	--	41,645	249	2/ 10,254	1.41	14,289

1/ 1951-55 average yield by States.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 756,000 bushels in 1949, 462,000 bushels in 1950, 112,000 bushels in 1953, and 160,000 bushels in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: During the last four years winter carrot acreage and production generally have been declining in Arizona and California but increasing in Texas. This shift has taken place in conjunction with the expanding use of film packaging of carrots and reflects the more favorable freight rates from Texas to eastern markets. The 1955 harvested acreage was 6 percent above 1954 but 10 percent below the 1949-53 average. Yields were good in Texas and California but low in Arizona where low temperatures restricted harvest. The 1955 average yield was 7 percent below 1954 and the 1949-53 average. This relatively low yield reflects the shift of acreage to Texas. The 1955 production was 2 percent less than in 1954 and was 14 percent below the 1949-53 average. As the harvest season got underway in early December supplies were relatively light due largely to unfavorable weather during the planting and early growing season in Texas. F.o.b. prices were fairly high during most of December and through the first half of January. Prices were at moderate levels from mid-January until late February, then dropped to low levels as the movement from Texas became heavy. They remained low the rest of the season. Most of the Arizona crop was marketed during the period of moderate to high prices and the season average price was well above the low levels of the two preceding years. Season average prices in both Texas and California were well below the 1954 levels. The group average price was the lowest since 1950.

1956 Guide: The 1956 guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields by States will result in a production 3 percent less than in 1955 but 16 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 15 percent less than the 1944-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Cauliflower

(States: Arizona, Florida, and Texas)

Year	Acreage Planted (acres)	Acreage For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (crates)	Production (1,000 crates)	Price ($ per Cr.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1954)		5,800	1/ 272	1,578		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	5,810	5,810	267	1,551	1.86	2,880
1954	5,200	5,100	254	1,293	1.31	1,697
1949-53 Average	3,750	3,580	270	966	1.80	1,743
2/1944-53 "	--	3,590	272	3/ 978	1.69	1,645

1/ 1951-55 average yield.
2/ Florida not included prior to 1945.
3/ Includes 2,000 crates not marketed in 1946 and excluded in computing value.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of cauliflower for harvest was 14 percent more than in 1954, 62 percent more than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Yields averaged higher than in 1954 but lower than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Increased yields in Texas and Florida accounted for the higher yields for the group of States. Production was 20 percent more than in 1954, 61 percent more than the 1949-54 average and 59 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Prices were higher in 1955 than in 1954 and higher than the 1949-53 average. The crop was later than usual in Arizona which permitted volume shipments from Texas to move to market largely ahead of the Arizona crop, thus reducing the effect of competition. The Florida crop was retarded to some extent and head sizes were generally smaller than normal. The pack of frozen cauliflower was down in 1954 to about one-half the volume packed in each of the two preceding years. Consequently, supplies of frozen cauliflower were considerably less in the winter months of 1955 and afforded less competition to the 1955 winter marketing of fresh market cauliflower.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 2 percent more than in 1955, 22 percent more than in 1954, and 163 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Celery

(States: Arizona, California, Florida)

Year	Acreage Planted	Acreage For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(acres)		(crate)	(1000 crates)	($ per Crate)	($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent more than in 1955)		9,600	1/ 752	7,219		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	9,160	9,160	826	7,562	2.63	19,870
1954	10,090	9,990	756	2/ 7,554	2.06	15,411
1949-53 Average	9,938	9,824	682	2/ 6,720	2.38	15,287
1944-53 "	-	9,937	605	2/ 6,005	2.59	14,695

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 328,000 crates in 1944, 82,000 crates in 1945, 77,000 crates in 1946, 536,000 crates in 1948, 131,000 crates in 1950, 152,000 crates in 1951, 90,000 crates in 1952, 88,000 crates in 1953 and 71,000 crates in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of winter celery was 8 percent less than in 1954, and 7 percent less than the 1949-53 average. The general upward trend in yield was continued and a record high average yield was obtained in 1955, principally due to the record yield in Florida. Yield in Arizona was reduced by freezing weather. Production was slightly more than the former record high level of 1954, and 13 percent above the 1949-53 average. Prices averaged appreciably higher than in 1954 and moderately higher than the 5-year average. Prices moved upward as the marketing season advanced, with high prices prevailing for the Golden types and smaller sizes and lower for Pascal and larger sizes. The relatively moderate supply of lettuce during the winter season possibly contributed to the favorable price situation.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent more than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 5 percent less than in 1955, 4 percent less than in 1954 and 7 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Sweet Corn

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage Planted	Acreage For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(acres)		(5 doz. ears)	(1000 5 doz ears)	($ per 5 doz. ears)	($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 50 percent more than in 1955 but 11 percent less than in 1954)		8,800	1/ 158	1,390		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	9,100	5,900	170	1,003	2.75	2,758
1954	11,600	9,900	165	1,634	2.45	4,003
1949-53 Average	4,680	4,040	127	518	3.31	1,530

1/ 1953-55 average yield.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 40 percent less than in 1954, but 46 percent more than the 1949-53 average. Freezing temperatures in mid-winter in the Lake Okeechobee section damaged or destroyed most of the acreage. Yield averaged slightly more than in 1954 and considerably above average. Production dropped 39 percent below 1954 due to the reduced acreage, but was about double the 1949-53 average. Prices averaged moderately higher than in 1954, but moderately less than average. Prices at the beginning of the shipping season averaged lower than in 1954, but generally exceeded those of the previous year during the latter part of the season. Shipments were fairly heavy in November, December and early January and above those of 1954, but then dropped below the 1954 level due to reduced supplies resulting from freezing temperatures. Stocks of canned and frozen corn were very heavy during the 1955 winter season. Planted acreage of corn for processing in 1955 is indicated 14 percent below 1954. While the 1955 packs probably will be somewhat smaller than in 1954, this will be offset to some degree by the large carryovers. Thus, supplies of processed sweet corn in 1955-56 probably will be only moderately below the heavy levels of the past season.

1956 Guide: Because of serious damage to the 1955 crop by cold weather, comparisons with the 1955 crop may be misleading. The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 50 percent more than in 1955. However, this acreage guide is 11 percent less than the harvested acreage in 1954. The acreage guide with 1953- 55 average yields will result in a production 39 percent more than in 1955 and 2.7 times more than the 1949-53 average but 15 percent less than in 1954.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Cucumbers

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bushels)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probably Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1955)		2,500	1/ 140	350		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	2,900	2,500	140	350	4.55	1,592
1954	2,300	2,200	145	319	5.80	1,850
1949-53 Average	2,520	1,660	156	2/ 275	5.35	1,214
1945-53 " 3/	-	1,261	131	2/ 188	5.87	858

1/ 1952-55 average yield.
2/ Includes 22,000 bushels not marketed in 1948 and excluded in computing value.
3/ Data for 1944 not available.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of cucumbers for harvest was 14 percent more than in 1954, 51 percent more than the 1949-53 average and about twice the 1945-53 average. Yields were less than in 1954 and the 1949-53 average but more than the 1945-53 average. Production was 10 percent more than in 1954, 27 percent more than the 1949-53 average and about twice the 1945-53 average. The crop was affected by successive cold spells from December to March which caused loss of yield and lower quality as well as retarding crop development. Even so, because of the larger 1955 crop, shipments remained ahead of comparable periods of 1954. Some acreage was lost due to adverse weather conditions and some replantings are reflected in spring acreage and production. F.o.b. shipping point prices were lower than prices for comparable weeks in 1954 each week of the winter marketing season except the last week of March. Prices reflected a wide range in quality throughout most of the season.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yields will result in a production equal to that in 1955.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Eggplant

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bu.)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price (¢ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1955)		800	1/ 410	328		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	800	800	350	280	2.35	6.58
1954	800	800	450	360	2.00	7.20
1949-53 Average	790	730	411	302	2.15	6.01
1944-53 "	--	778	372	2/ 291	2.26	5.93

1/ 1951-55 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 50,000 bushels in 1944 and 19,000 bushels in 1946.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of eggplant for harvest was equal to that in 1954, 10 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 3 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields were lower than in 1954 and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages due to adverse weather conditions. Production was 22 percent less than in 1954, 7 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 4 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Successive cold waves that occurred each month, beginning in the last half of December and continuing through March, reduced yields. Production estimates were lowered with each crop report. Domestic production of eggplant has been encountering some competition from imports, principally from Cuba and Mexico. While imports were larger in the winter season of 1954-55, this competition has been decreasing in recent years and probably will continue to decrease. Prices were moderately higher than in 1954 and the 1949-53 average.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 17 percent more than in 1955, 9 percent more than the 1949-53 average but 9 percent less than in 1954.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Escarole

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bu.)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)		4,300	1/ 513	2,206		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	4,500	4,500	525	2,362	1.05	2,480
1954	5,000	4,500	545	2/ 2,452	1.05	2,137
1949-53 Average	4,500	4,020	488	2/ 1,976	1.22	2,110
1944-53 "	--	3,350	491	2/ 1,642	1.16	1,618

1/ 1951-55 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 649,000 bushels in 1944, 268,000 bushels in 1945, 267,000 bushels in 1946, 258,000 bushels in 1948, 57,000 bushels in 1949, 301,000 bushels in 1950, 646,000 bushels in 1951, 192,000 bushels in 1952, and 417,000 bushels in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: After increasing fairly steadily during the 1939-51 period the acreage of escarole harvested appears to have leveled off at between 4 and 5 thousand acres. The 1955 harvested acreage was equal to 1954, 12 percent above the 1949-53 average and 34 percent above the 1944-53 average. In general, growing conditions were favorable. The 1955 yield was 4 percent below the high yield in 1954 but was 8 percent above the 1949-53 average. The 1955 production was 4 percent below 1954 but was 20 percent above the 1949-53 average. Shipments started in mid-November and were in moderate volume by the end of the month. Movement continued moderate to heavy throughout the winter and spring seasons. Prices generally were moderate during the last half of November, then declined to low levels in December. Prices remained low the rest of the marketing season. The season average price was equal to the low price in 1954 and was below the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages.

1956 Guide: The 1956 guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 7 percent less than in 1955 but 12 percent above the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Kale

(State: Virginia)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bu.)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)		2,800	1/ 360	1,008		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	3,000	3,000	330	990	.80	792
1954	3,000	3,000	350	2/ 1,050	.55	550
1949-53 Average	2,940	2,920	401	2/ 1,172	.66	730
1944-53 "	--	2,830	384	2/ 1,084	.71	738

1/ 1953-55 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 260,000 bushels in 1953 and 50,000 bushels in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of kale for harvest was equal to that in 1954, 3 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 6 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields averaged slightly less than in 1954 and less than the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Production was 6 percent less than in 1954, 16 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 9 percent less than the 1944-53 average. A part of the decline in yields and production may be due to changing harvesting and marketing practices to stripping the leaves from the stalks for prepackaging of loose leaf kale. Prices were higher than in 1954 and higher than the 1949-53 average. This higher price may not be strictly comparable with earlier years, however, because of the changing harvesting and marketing practices. Price variations in recent years may be reflecting changing proportions of the crop marketed bulk to prepackagers and freezers.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide for kale is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yields will result in a production 2 percent more than in 1955, 4 percent less than in 1954 and 14 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Lettuce

(States: Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas)

Year	Acreage Planted (acres)	Acreage For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (crate)	Production (1,000 crates)	Price ($ per crate)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1955)		63,500	1/ 183	11,610		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	63,600	63,500	183	11,610	3.47	40,257
1954	62,100	61,500	184	11,325	3.04	34,465
1949-53 Average	63,740	60,040	171	2/ 10,159	3.29	32,915
1944-53 "	--	50,950	183	2/ 9,150	3.08	28,169

1/ 1944-53 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 110,000 crates in 1944, 25,000 crates in 1945, 37,000 crates in 1946, 31,000 crates in 1948, 770,000 crates in 1950, and 86,000 crates in 1951.

Comparisons and Comments: The rapid expansion of winter season lettuce production which began in the early 1940's continued in 1955 as production reached a record high. Practically all of the expansion has been due to larger acreages, particularly in California where the 1955 acreage was 56 percent above that in 1941. The total 1955 harvested acreage was 3 percent above 1954, 6 percent above 1949-53 average and 25 percent above the 1944-53 average. Yields in 1955 were good in all areas in spite of below normal temperatures during much of the season. The 1955 average yield was 1 percent below 1954 and 7 percent above the 1949-53 average. The record high 1955 production was 3 percent above 1954, 14 percent above the 1949-53 average and 27 percent above the 1944-53 average. As the winter harvest season got underway during the latter part of November, supplies were heavy with the movement from the winter crop areas overlapping the movement of the late fall crop in Arizona. Prices were at low levels until late in December. Supplies became light at that time with the Arizona fall harvest finished and the winter crops were delayed by cold weather. Prices improved rapidly, reaching very high levels during the first week of January. Throughout the remainder of the season, harvests were delayed by adverse weather conditions. There was no bunching of harvest and consequent heavy shipments such as often occurs in the marketing of lettuce. In addition, harvest of the Arizona early spring crop was delayed, resulting in a better than normal late marketing season. Shipments generally were moderate to light and prices ranged from moderate to fairly high levels. The U. S. average price to growers was well above the 1954 and the 1949-53 average prices.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1944-53 average yield will result in a production equal to that in 1955, but 14 percent above the 1949-53 average and 27 percent above the 1944-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Green Peppers

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage: Planted (acres)	Acreage: For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bu.)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)		4,600	1/ 412	1,895		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	4,800	4,800	415	1,992	2.40	4,781
1954	4,600	4,500	385	1,732	2.65	4,590
1949-53 Average	3,860	3,560	428	1,491	2.59	3,747
1944-53 "	--	3,500	394	2/1,359	2.60	3,391

1/ 1951-55 average yield.
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 68,000 bushels in 1944, 241,000 bushels in 1946, and 13,000 bushels in 1948.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of green peppers for harvest was 7 percent more than in 1954, 35 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 37 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields were higher than in 1954 and the 1944-53 average, but lower than the 1949-53 average. Production was 15 percent more than in 1954, 34 percent more than the 1949-53 average, and 47 percent more than the 1944-53 average. The 1955 acreage and production were the highest of record. Prices averaged less than in 1954 and less than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was hampered somewhat by retarding effects of successive cold waves from December to March and by excessive rains in the early growing season in November. Imports from Mexico and Cuba were less of a factor in the marketing of the winter crop compared to 1954. The quality of the domestic crop was variable, reflecting the effects of adverse weather conditions, and prices also were variable. Shipments throughout the season remained ahead of the preceding year.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 5 percent less than in 1955, but 9 percent more than in 1954 and 27 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Potatoes

(States: Florida, Texas)

Year	Acreage: Planted	Acreage: For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(acres)		(bushel)	(1,000 bu.)	($ Per bu.)	($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (Florida, acreage 25 percent less than in 1955 - Texas, acreage equal to 1955)		10,100	1 / 262	2,646		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	13,300	13,300	267	3,438	1.95	-
1954	12,200	12,200	293	3,571	1.40	5,012
1949-53 Avg.	11,620	11,260	242	2,735	2.15	5,792
1944-53 "	12,190	11,540	200	2,300	2.30	5,166

1/ 1952-55 average yield.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 harvested acreage was 9 percent more than in 1954 and 18 percent more than the 1949-53 average. Yields averaged moderately less than the 1954 record high level, but were considerably higher than the 1949-53 average. Production was 7 percent more than in 1954 but above average. Dry weather and cold temperatures reduced yield in the Dade County, Florida production area. Other South Florida areas experienced normal growing conditions. Acreage in Texas declined for the second year due to the low yield obtained. Winter crop prices averaged moderately higher than in 1954, but were below average. The winter crop represents about 1 percent of the annual supply. Late crop storage supplies during the 1955-56 winter months are expected to be at a very high level. Prices for late crop marketings are expected to average considerably less than in 1954. Though winter crop potatoes usually command a price premium as compared to late potatoes, the winter crop price level is expected to be low and appreciably below 1955 as winter crop prices are influenced by the level of late crop storage supplies. Winter production and supply should be large enough only to fill needs obligated by contracts and other established outlets.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955 in Texas and 25 percent less than in 1955 in Florida. Such an acreage with yields equal to the 1952-55 average will result in a production 23 percent less than in 1955, 26 percent less than in 1954, and 3 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Shallots

(State: Louisiana)

Year	Acreage: Planted	Acreage: For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(acres)		(barrels)	(1,000 bbls)	($ per bbl)	($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 20 percent less than in 1955)		3,100	1/ 27	84		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	3,900	3,900	38	2/ 148	5.65	729
1954	2,800	2,800	27	76	11.20	851
1949-53 Average	3,100	3,100	27	85	8.67	731
1944-53 "	--	2,890	28	82	8.29	670

1/ 1949-53 average yield.
2/ Includes 19,000 barrels not marketed in 1955 and excluded in computing value.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage, yield and production of winter shallots were record large. Acreage was 39 percent more than in 1954, 26 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 35 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields were high in part because poor market conditions caused growers to withhold harvesting which permitted the shallots to attain maximum size. The 1955 yield was 11 barrels per acre higher than in 1954 and the 1949-53 average. Production was almost twice the volume harvested in 1954, 74 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 80 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Prices were the lowest since 1943 and about one-half the high prices received in 1954.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 20 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1949-53 average yields will result in a production 43 percent less than in 1955 and 1 percent less than the 1949-53 average but 11 percent more than in 1954.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Spinach

(States: California, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas)

Year	Acreage Planted	Acreage For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(acres)		(bu.)	(1000 bu.)	($ per bu.)	($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage equal to that in 1955)		21,100	1/ 175	3,696		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	21,600	21,100	166	3,506	1.54	5,404
1954	20,300	19,900	173	3,435	1.45	4,967
1949-53 Average	33,980	25,036	171	2/ 4,203	1.33	5,533
1944-53 "	-	31,883	166	2/ 5,204	1.11	5,486

1/ 1951-55 average yield by states.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 125,000 bushels in 1952, and 43,000 bushels in 1953.

Comparisons and Comments: During the period 1943-51 the acreage of spinach harvested during the winter season dropped sharply. In 1943 43,300 acres were harvested and in 1951 only 20,850 acres were harvested. Practically all of this reduction occurred in Texas where the 1951 acreage was only 39 percent of the 1942 high point. Since 1951 acreage has been fairly steady, usually slightly above 20 thousand acres. In 1955 the harvested acreage was 6 percent above 1954 but 16 percent below the 1949-53 average and 34 percent below the 1944-53 average. Yields in general were slightly below those of recent years but for the group were equal to the 1944-53 average. There was some acreage lost in Texas due to hail in January and cold weather lowered yields. The 1955 production was 2 percent above 1954 but 17 percent below the 1949-53 average and 33 percent below the 1944-53 average. F.O.B. prices were moderate from the start of the shipping season through mid-December, then increased to fairly high levels. Prices remained relatively high during the rest of the season. The group season average price was moderately above the fairly high 1954 average and was the highest on record. Frozen spinach, which is strongly competitive with the fresh product, was in relatively light supply during the 1955 winter season. Frozen stocks in January, February, and March of 1955 were 53, 48, and 42 percent respectively of the stocks during the corresponding months of 1954. On the basis of the current frozen stock position it appears that stocks during the winter of 1956 will be below the 1955 levels.

1956 Guide: The 1956 guide is a harvested acreage equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields by states will result in a production 5 percent more than in 1955 but 12 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

1956 Acreage-Marketing Guides
Winter Vegetables

Tomatoes

(State : Florida)

Year	Acreage Planted (acres)	Acreage For Harvest (acres)	Yield Per Acre (bu.)	Production (1000 bu.)	Price ($ per bu.)	Value ($1,000)
Acreage Guide and Probable Production:						
1956 (acreage 5 percent more than in 1955)		17,400	1/ 228	3,967		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	16,700	16,600	295	4,897	5.25	25,709
1954	17,500	17,400	210	3,654	4.55	16,626
1949-53 Average	13,980	13,660	192	2,625	5.11	13,041
1944-53 "	-	13,410	159	2/ 2,170	5.51	11,178

1/ 1953-55 average yield
2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 293,000 bushels in 1945 and 129,000 bushels in 1946.

Comparisons and Comments: The harvested acreage was 5 percent below 1954 but 22 percent above the 1949-53 average and 24 percent above the 1944-53 average. Despite a number of cold waves during the season yields were extremely high. The record 1955 average yield was 40 percent above 1954, 54 percent above the 1949-53 average and 86 percent above the 1944-53 average. The large acreage and very high yields resulted in a record large production, 34 percent above 1954, 87 percent above the 1949-53 average and 126 percent above the 1944-53 average. Practically all of the winter crop is produced in the Dade County section of Florida. Shipments were moderate during most of January and February then increased in March reaching a peak about the middle of the month. The season was practically finished by mid-April. Prices were fairly low as the season opened but reached moderate levels by mid-January. Prices increased steadily the next six weeks and by early March were at high levels. Then a slow decline to moderate levels took place the remainder of the season. The season average price was well above 1954 and the 1949-53 average but below the 1944-53 average. Prices averaged much higher than normally would be expected with a production as large as that in 1955. Probably the principal reasons for this was that the movement to market was orderly with no periods of very heavy shipments and also because imports from Cuba and Mexico were relatively light. The imports from Cuba and Mexico during the January-March 1955 period were 26 and 55 percent respectively below the levels of 1954.

1956 Guide: The 1956 guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent more than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yields will result in a production 1? percent less than in 1955 but 51 percent above the 1949-53 average and 83 percent above the 1944-53 average.